

FOR CALLOUSED HANDS

*Virginia Cooperative Extension's
Central District Monthly Agriculture Newsletter*



Bracing for Impact: Preparing for Hurricane Florence

With Florence right around the corner, farmers up and down the east coast are cringing at the thought as beautiful crops stand in the fields and fall calves are hitting the ground. As Thursday approaches, please take a moment to think about the essentials for your home and operation. Asking a few simple questions can get you off to a good start.

Wind

- What items will blow in heavy winds? What do I need to pick up, move, or tie down?
- Are there trees or limbs I need to trim?
- Do I have plenty of gas and chainsaw oil to deal with damage?

Flooding

- Are my pesticides stored in a safe place?
- What areas will flood? How will this impact my crops, livestock, or my ability to get around and complete necessary chores?
- Is my pond overflow pipe unclogged? Is my pond prepared for excess water?
- Are my animals somewhere that they could be trapped if there is flooding?
- Do I have trailers and trucks ready if I or my neighbors need assistance moving livestock, items, or their families out of dangerous areas?

IN THIS ISSUE

**STAYING UP TO DATE
WITH THE SPECIALISTS**

**PESTICIDE PICK-UP
PROGRAM COMES TO
SOUTHSIDE**

AG EVENTS CALENDAR

Loss of Power

- Have I charged my spotlights? Drill or other tool batteries?
 - Do I have plenty of water stored up for myself and my animals?
 - How will I deal with curing barns, waterers, etc. if we lose power ?
 - Do I have alternative means of communication if phones are down?
- Do I have car chargers?

And last, but certainly not least... did I put ALL my windows up? Every single truck?

Are you sure?

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.ext.vsu.edu/hurricane-florence>

Unwanted Pesticides Pick-Up Program

After budget restraints last year, the Virginia Ag Pesticide Collection Program is back, and this year, it is right here at home in Southside Virginia! The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services has arranged for the pick up of outdated and unwanted pesticides at a number of locations in the coming weeks. This program is designed to help agricultural producers remove extra or unidentified pesticides from their property in a safe, legal manner. This program is FREE, but due to the nature of working with chemicals, VDACS asks producers to please register ahead of time so that they will have the equipment needed to handle everything that is collected.

For a full list of details and registration paperwork, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/vapestcollect2>

COLLECTION TIMES: 9 A.M.—1 P.M.	
Sept. 24	Meherrin Ag & Chemical 1409 Vincent Store Rd. Charlotte Courthouse, VA
Sept. 25	Crop Production Service 501 W. Danville St. South Hill, VA 23970
Sept. 26	Ag Development Center 1001 Farm Way La. Scottsburg, VA 24589
Sept. 27	Chatham Southern States 968 Halifax Rd. Chatham, VA 24531
Oct. 15	Burkeville Southern States 105 N. Agnew St. Burkeville, VA 23922
Oct. 16	Martinsville Southern States 3200 Virginia Ave. Collinsville, VA 24078
Oct. 17	Farmville Southern States 182 Smi Way Farmville, VA 23901
Oct. 18	Lynchburg Livestock Market 243 Livestock Rd. Rustburg, VA 24588

Keeping up with the Specialists - In lieu of a crop update from a specialist, here are some creative ways to stay up to date on crop issues!

VA Ag Pest & Crop Advisory:

If you are not already following the VA Ag Pest & Crop Advisory blog, please do so. Specialists post updates as they arise, and this is the best way to stay abreast of emerging crop and pest issues across the state.

You can find this blog here:

<https://blogs.ext.vt.edu/ag-pest-advisory/>

Twitter Updates:

One of the best Tweepers in our Virginia Crop Family is Dr. Michael Flessner, Extension Weed Specialist for Virginia Tech. He posts regularly with helpful information about emerging crop and weed issues. You can follow him [@VTAgWeeds](#)

Likewise, another great Tweeter to follow is Dr. David Holshouser, Extension Agronomist for Virginia Tech. Dr. Holshouser posts about all things soybean! You can follow him [@VirginiaSoybean](#)

And where would we be without someone keeping an eye on our disease pressure?! Dr. Hillary Mehl, Extension Plant Pathologist posts great information throughout the growing season about potential disease threats. You can follow her [@hillary_mehl](#)

Private pesticide license recertification courses coming soon!

It is almost pesticide recertification time, and we promise we haven't forgotten! Your extension agent will be sending out his or her letter with local recertification opportunities in the coming months. Be patient. We have to organize dates around a lot of events, and it takes us a little time to get the full letter of dates together. You may receive a letter from VDACS prior to ours, but it will be coming soon.

In the meantime, you can check up on your own private applicator credits online at the VDACS website: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/reports-private.pdf>

A few reminders:

* If your license is set to expire December 31, 2018 but you know you have banked credits, don't worry. VDACS will not issue you a new license until just before the one in your pocket is set to expire - not right after you take your extra recert. course.

*There is a grace period until the end of February following your expiration date. During this time, you may not purchase restricted use chemicals, BUT if you recertify in this grace period, you will not have to retest.



Small Ruminant Field Day

September 21, 2018
9:00am - 3:00pm

VSU Randolph Farm
4415 River Road
Petersburg, VA 23803-1730

REGISTRATION: \$10 per person includes lunch.
<https://www.ext.vsu.edu/events/2018/9/21/small-ruminant-field-day>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Niki Whitley, animal science Extension specialist, Fort Valley State University, Georgia.

Dr. Whitley has worked with goats and sheep for 20 years at the University of Missouri, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and North Carolina A&T State University. She earned her Ph.D. in animal physiology from Mississippi State.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Michelle Corley will discuss using stinging nettle for deworming. Dr. Eunice Ndegwa will discuss maintaining gut health in pre-weaned kids and lambs. Dr. O'Brien and Amanda Miller, VSU's herd manager, will conduct hands-on sessions on vaccinations, proper drenching techniques, FAMACHA scoring, body condition scoring and maintaining hoof health.

Goat and lamb products will be available for sampling.

For information, contact the Small Ruminant Program office at (804) 524-5960 or email mklein@vsu.edu.

SEPTEMBER 2018

**Cream indicates change in date*

13

9:00 AM -
4:30 PM

VA Smart Farming Conference

Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
150 Slayton Avenue, Danville, VA

For details: www.hort.vt.edu/sfcea/index.html

18

9:00 AM -
3:00 PM

Forestry & Wildlife Management Tour

Cumberland State Forest Office
751 Oak Hill Road, Cumberland, VA

For details, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/forestwild>

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VA Pesticide Collection Program

Various dates and locations across Southside.
See page 2 or link for more details:
tinyurl.com/vapestcollect2

29

9:30 AM -
11:30 AM

Fall Gardening Workshop

Greensville/Emporia Extension Office
Emporia, VA. For details/to register, call the
office at: (434) 348-4223

OCTOBER 2018

11

3:00 PM -
7:00 PM

Livestock & Forage Field Day

Southern Piedmont AREC
2375 Darvills Rd, Blackstone, VA

For details, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/livestockfd>

26

12:30 PM -
4:00 PM

Fall Farm Pond Workshop

Southern Piedmont AREC
2375 Darvills Rd, Blackstone, VA

For details, visit: tinyurl.com/farmpond2

NOVEMBER 2018

13

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

Nov. 13 - 15, 2018
Ocean City, MD

For details, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/macrop>



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

VSU College of Agriculture offers many educational programs, workshops, and field days. To find out more, visit:

<https://www.ext.vsu.edu/calendar/>

or follow the VSU College of Agriculture Facebook page and check out their Events section:

<https://www.facebook.com/VsuCollegeOfAgriculture/>

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THIS NEWSLETTER

This agriculture newsletter is created by Virginia Cooperative Extension—Central District Extension Agents as part of our outreach and public efforts. If you have questions, comments, or information for the newsletter, please contact Lindy Fimon via email at tucker07@vt.edu or via cell at (434) 321-2009.

Information and flyers for our programs can be found on Google Drive: [here](#).

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

MAILING LISTS

Please contact your local office to get on mail or email lists.

You can find a list of local offices online:

<https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook at

[Virginia Cooperative Extension Central District](#) or follow Virginia Cooperative Extension—“Your County” Facebook page!

Additionally, many extension agents also have Twitter or Instagram accounts to keep you up to date. Be sure to ask!

Want to know more about local farms? Follow the Ag Spotlight blog to learn about farms in south central VA!
<http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/central-virginia-ag-spotlight/>